Privacy Act Exceptions

The Privacy Act of 1974 includes 12 exceptions under which DOI may disclose information about an individual without their written consent.

- To an agency employee who has a need for the record in the performance of their official duties.
- When the disclosure is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
- For a routine use which has been described in a SORN.
- To the Census Bureau for the purposes of a census survey.
- To someone who has adequately notified the agency in advance that the record is to be used for statistical research or reporting, and the record is transferred in a form that is not individually identifiable.
- To the National Archives and Records Administration for a record that has historical value.
- To an agency "of any governmental jurisdiction within or under the control of the United States for a civil or criminal law enforcement activity," and if the record is provided in response to a written request by the head of the agency.
- When there are "compelling circumstances" affecting someone's health or safety, and the person whose health or safety is affected is sent a notification of the disclosure.
- To Congress or any committee or subcommittee within Congress.
- To the Comptroller General in the course of the duties of the Government Accountability Office.
- Pursuant to a court order.
- To a consumer reporting agency in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3711(e).